DATE 2.18.15

WHE NO. 455

February 10, 2015
To the Montana Legislators,

We would like to make a statement as members of the first expanded (30 member) Montana WWAMI medical school class, writing from rainy Seattle where we are now in our second year of training. We have been watching the Medicaid Expansion news with hope.

As the future doctors of our state, we whole-heartedly support Medicaid Expansion. We know that there are a few versions of an expansion bill on the table, and we would like to see a bill passed that expands coverage for *everyone* in the Medicaid Gap; i.e. one that is as true to the original Affordable Care Act bill as is politically feasible.

We recognize the inequities in our current healthcare system and understand the need for change. We want to be a part of this change, and we prefer to practice medicine in a state where its leaders support the health of all people. Many of us wish to return to the rural Montana communities from which we grew and provide high-quality primary and specialist care. A more equitable system is not only medically imperative for the people of Montana, but such a system will also empower us to be our best as providers.

Through our medical training, we are committing ourselves to our future patients. As legislators, you have made a commitment to these same communities. Please allow us to do as our profession calls us to do - to serve the health and dignity of all Montanans. Please pass full Medicaid Expansion. Jordan Vacartum Signed by Montana medical students E-2013: Justine Mac Donald - Missoula, MT Elahui Ka hopell.M Cothern Min Enlevance, MI (sed Falls, M.) Ekalaka, MT Boseman, MI Great Falls, MT MISSOUA, MT